

**Commission on Local Government
September 17, 2024
8:30 am
Warrenton Townhall
21 Main Street
Warrenton, VA 20186**

Members Present (virtually)

Edwin Rosado (chair)
Diane Linderman
Ceasor Johnson
Terry Payne

Members Absent

Ceasor Johnson

DHCD and OAG staff present for
all or part of the meeting:

Bryan Horn, Director
LeGrand Northcutt, Senior Policy
Analyst
Chase Sawyer, Policy Manager
Trisha Lindsey, Policy and
Legislative Director
Justin Bell, Assistant Attorney
General

Call to Order

Mr. Edwin Rosado, Chairman of the Commission on Local Government, called the regular meeting to order at 8:40 am.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. LeGrand Northcutt, Senior Policy Analyst, DHCD. Mr. Northcutt reported that a quorum of Commissioners Rosado, Linderman, Johnson, and Payne was present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Lauterberg to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2024 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Payne and seconded by Ms. Linderman to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2024 special meeting. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment

Mr. Rosado opened the floor for public comment.

After seeing no speakers, Mr. Rosado closed public comment.

Mr. Justin Bell, Assistant Attorney General, introduced himself to the Commission. Guests present in person included Mr. Roy Barnett, representing Van Meter Companies, and Jay Ellington, Executive Director of the Crater Planning District Commission.

Staff's Report

Mr. Northcutt updated the commission on efforts by the City of Emporia to revert to a Town and the Commission's regulatory reduction package.

Cases Before the Commission

Rappahannock/Washington VSA

Mr. Northcutt reported that the Voluntary Settlement Agreement between the Town of Washington and Rappahannock County has been approved by both localities and will be filed with a special court soon.

Fauquier/Warrenton VSA

Mr. Lauterberg asked Mr. Barnett to respond to several issues that were raised during public comment to the Commission regarding the development's impact on the Town's sewer capacity and traffic. Mr. Barnett stated he would send staff the Town's most recent sewer capacity study, the Town's commercial zoning ordinance, and the traffic impact analysis that was submitted with the rezoning application to the County.

Mr. Northcutt presented the internal review timeline for the report on the Voluntary Settlement Agreement to the Commission. There were no changes, and the Commission will endeavor to adopt its report on or before the November 1, 2024 regular meeting.

Emergency Regulations
Implementing SB645 (2024)

Mr. Horn gave an introductory comment and thanked the Commission and staff for their hard work preparing the emergency regulations for publication and eventual implementation.

Mr. Northcutt presented proposed amendments and comments on the emergency regulations implementing SB645. The first set of amendments incorporated comments from Commissioners from the August special meeting. The second set of amendments incorporated suggestions from the Auditor of Public Accounts. The Commission also received one comment letter from the Virginia Municipal League.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to adopt the emergency regulations implementing SB645 as presented by staff and submit them for executive branch review. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Assessments of Mandates on
Local Governments

Mr. Northcutt presented the outstanding assessments of mandates on local governments from FY2024. He will send the assessments to the Governor and General Assembly after the meeting.

Catalog of Mandates on Local
Governments

Mr. Northcutt presented the proposed changes to the catalog of mandates on local governments for 2024 edition of the catalog. There were 22 new and newly identified mandates added to the catalog, and 6 mandates removed. A motion was made by Mr. Lauterberg and seconded by Ms. Linderman to approve the changes to the catalog of mandates on local governments as presented by staff.

Commission Work Groups
SB546 Study

Mr. Northcutt gave an update on the SB546 study on income tax reductions in double-distressed localities. Mr. Northcutt will distribute the report to the Commissioners after the meeting. Mr. Northcutt and Mr. Payne will give comments back to the Department of Taxation. Any other commissioners who have comments on the report should send them to Mr. Northcutt by September 30th.

Fiscal Stress Report Workgroup

Mr. Lauterberg updated the Commission on the Fiscal Stress Report work group's progress, findings, and recommendations. The work group would like to add two new measures to the Fiscal Stress Report: a locality's fund balance and its debt. It would also like to contract the services of a researcher in the field to help transition the Fiscal Stress Report to a new format. Ms. Lindsey updated the Commission on procurement possibilities and next steps that staff will take to potentially implement the suggestions of the work group.

Future Meetings

The November regular meeting will be held on November 1, 2024, at 11:00 am in person, place to be determined.

Other Business

There was no other commission business

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to adjourn the meeting of the Commission; The motion

passed on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

DRAFT